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SOURCE Bashkimi.

RESULTS OF 3 YEARS OF ALBANIAN COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURE

The First Congress of Agricultural Cooperatives was held in Tirana on 15 February 1949. Today, all cooperative members are drawing up a balance sheet of their achievements and their shortcomings, in order to consider new measures for the future.

The First Congress of Agricultural Cooperatives, which convened after the First Congress of the Albanian Workers' Party, brought about a decisive change in the policy of the agricultural cooperatives. It adopted new decisions and by-laws, replacing the mistaken principles and organizational methods introduced in the cooperatives by the Trotskyite agents of Belgrade with Marxist-Leninist principles.

The congress changed the former compensation system of 60 percent on the basis of work and 40 percent on the basis of land to a system of compensation based 100 percent on the work of each cooperative member. The congress also annulled all artificial limitations on the formation of cooperatives, and gave the farmer complete freedom to operate as he chose. In addition, it reduced the individual garden and livestock holdings of members in order to increase collective property. It likewise fixed concrete norms for management, organization, and a democratic policy in the cooperatives. The congress also regulated membership in agricultural cooperatives, taking stringent measures to purge all the kulaks who had succeeded in penetrating the cooperatives.

The resolutions of the congress and the new by-laws for the cooperatives recommended by Enver Hoxha and the First Party Congress constitute a militant program for the members of cooperatives, the party, and the authorities.

Under party leadership, the cooperatives have made considerable progress during the past 3 years. Comparing present conditions with conditions in 1949, many advances have been made. The number of cooperatives has increased from 56 to 94; family members of cooperatives increased 192 percent; cultivated land, 257.6 percent; livestock, 161.6 percent; draft animals, 369.9 percent; fodder /leaves, 324 percent; cattle, 255.3 percent; hoofed animals and pigs,

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426 percent. To increase the output of farm produce, the cooperatives are employing more tools and farm machinery and making greater use of the MTS; they have begun to apply large-scale, advanced agrotechnological and Soviet methods in sowing corn and cotton and in hybrid-seeding and cross-planting wheat.

The organizational situation has been strengthened by extending collectivization. In accordance with the by-laws adopted by the Second National Party Conference, and the decisions of the ninth, tenth, and eleventh plenary sessions of the Central Committee of the Albanian Workers' Party, the cooperatives have begun to apply kolkhoz experience in the organization and the performance of annual tasks through livestock brigade assignments, in norm fulfillment by squads, in socialist competition, and in war against the kulaks. The number of women participating in cooperative production, in conservation of collective property, and in maintenance of order and discipline is increasing. Thirty-five kindergartens or children's nurseries, besides reading rooms and athletic fields, have already been established.

The economic and cultural standards of cooperative members have been raised by their own efforts to achieve an efficient agrotechnical organization and by the assistance of the government and the party. Despite unfavorable weather conditions in the last few years and the fact that nearly one third of the cooperatives did not exist in 1950, the yield of cooperatives in 1951, as compared with 1948, showed an increase of more than 1.45 quintals per hectare of wheat, 3.38 quintals per hectare of cotton, 67 quintals per hectare of sugar beets, and 6.85 quintals per hectare of two-rowed barley.

All cooperatives, however, were not successful in equal degree. The best results were obtained by the agricultural cooperatives which followed party directives and employed advanced Soviet agricultural methods. To this category belong the agricultural cooperatives of Rrembee, Lumalas, Vranishta, Vishovice, Borje, Terove, Kutalli, Fier'-i-Ri, Ciflik'-i-Ri, Zervat, Asim Zenelli, Navarice, Vlaminas, Tale-Grykelumi, and some others.

Nevertheless, there are also cooperatives with members who are not sufficiently interested in the welfare of the cooperatives to request an account from the management. This is the case of the cooperatives at Dhane, Cakran, Beden, Mas-karesh, Qerret, Bilalas, etc. In other cooperatives, members do not obey the officials they elect or come to work regularly, or even observe internal discipline. Such cooperatives exist at Gore in Lushnje, and in some of the above-mentioned towns, including Peshkopi, Drashovice, Vriion, Memalias, Vashtine, and Gjocaj. The cooperatives near Fier do not understand that, unless they employ advanced Soviet organizational methods, they cannot expect good production. The animal husbandry experts and agricultural technicians in the regions near the cooperatives must share the responsibility for these shortcomings. Certain agricultural cooperatives, such as those at Beden, Mas-karesh, Yzberishe, Gore, and lower Krutje, underestimate stable organization, division of labor among brigades and squads, and application of individual norms. One result of such inefficiency is that the members lack any personal responsibility for workday schedules, production planning, or conservation of collective property. Another result is the wastage and other losses due to poor management in cultivating and harvesting crops. This is the case with cotton at Gore, oats at Ajazme, and other products. Lack of organization and proper division of labor retard socialist competition, weaken vigilance against the kulak and socialist consciousness regarding work.

There is yet another deficiency in the admission of new members. Most of the Korce cooperatives tend to admit only the middle peasants and to exclude poor peasants. Other cooperatives do not admit new members under the pretext that everything has already been done when they apply. There are also cooperatives, including those at Gore and Cakran, which, because of momentary financial pressure, accept members who are not fully qualified.

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Today, the agricultural cooperatives are taking stock of their achievements and failures in 1951, and distributing 1951 produce and cash income. Although not all the cooperatives have yet submitted their current accounts (this operation is still in progress), the accounts submitted thus far show that certain cooperatives have achieved more satisfactory results than in 1950. During 1951, the agricultural cooperative at Trestanik distributed 0.592 kilogram more cereal and 1.80 kilograms more potatoes per workday than in 1950. The cooperatives at Zervat, Borje, Melcan, Golloberde, Iefter Talos, Lumaslas, Tale-Gryke-Lumi, among others, have made a better showing. But various cooperatives, including those of Gore, Peshkopi, and Frasheri-Reth, have not made satisfactory improvement. The reason for these poor results lies in their lack of organization and application of advanced agricultural methods, and in their weak leadership.

On this anniversary, the assemblies of the cooperatives must consider whether to elect new leaders and audit committees, or those who have completed their 2-year period of service. They must also decide whether to re-elect officers who have not properly fulfilled their duties under the by-laws. It is, therefore, necessary to develop criticism and self-criticism in order to stress the responsibilities of the directing personnel to be elected, as well as the duty of members to demand the rendering of accounts. The cooperatives are now confronted with great responsibilities. Application of the resolutions of the Council of Ministers and of the Central Committee of the Albanian Workers' Party, on the 1952 spring planting, will increase the efficiency of the cooperatives in timely deep plowing, in ensuring the necessary seed, fertilizer, and tools for production, beginning and ending work on schedule, and employing proper agrotechnological methods in planting. The instructions in these resolutions ask the individual farmer during the 1952 spring planting to remember past and current shortcomings and to rely on both the new 1952 regulations and Soviet methods.

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